



SENATE BILL 815: Reform Workforce Development

2011-2012 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Commerce
Introduced by: Sen. Hartsell
Analysis of: First Edition

Date: June 6, 2012
Prepared by: Heather Fennell
Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *Senate Bill 815 amends the State's workforce development laws, modifies the membership of the Commission on Workforce Development, and establishes the Joint Legislative Workforce Development System Reform Oversight Committee.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Commission on Workforce Development: Amends the duties of the Commission to include the following:

- Submission of an annual comprehensive report to the Governor, to the General Assembly, to State and local agencies, and to the business sector on workforce development in the State.
- Evaluation of workforce development plans and programs in addition to mere review of those activities.
- Assessment of the effectiveness of the State's workforce development system through performance of the workforce development programs administered by the Department of Administration (DOA), the Department of Commerce (Commerce), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and the Community College System Office (CC System Office). An annual report on the performance measures must be submitted to the General Assembly beginning January 1, 2014.
- Serve as the lead agency in the collaboration between DOA, Commerce, DHHS, DPI, and the CC System Office in providing an effective, integrated workforce development system.
- Lead the development of the memorandum of understanding for JobLink Career Center System, including coordinating the activities of workforce development work groups and coordinating with Commerce on the common follow-up information management system (CFS).

Workforce Development Commission Membership: The Commission membership is reduced from 38 to 25. The DOA Secretary is added, and the Assistant Commerce Secretary is removed. The Governor's appointments are reduced from 32 to 19. Terms of the current members of the Commission will expire December 31, 2012. The term of office for members appointed by the Governor remains four years.

Confidentiality: The Commission may obtain sworn and unsworn reports from agencies and entities subject to review and assessment. Information received from those reports is not subject to the Public Records Act and but must be held by the Commission as confidential.

Advisory Work Group: The Commission must appoint an Advisory Workgroup of representatives from the DOA, Commerce, DHHS, DPI and the CC System Office to assist with the development of workforce development system performance measures.

Reporting: In addition to various other reporting requirements, the Commission must report quarterly to the newly created Joint Legislative Workforce Development System Reform Oversight Committee (Reform Oversight Committee).

Local & Regional Coordination: Local workforce development boards are required to provide coordinated regional workforce development planning and labor market data sharing. The Commission and DOA are required to provide programmatic, technical, and other assistance to any local workforce development board

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that realigns its service area with the boundaries of a local regional council of government. Commerce is to report to the Reform Oversight Committee on the status of realignment and regional planning.

Common Follow-up System: Commerce and the Division of Labor and Economic Analysis (DLEA) are directed to strengthen the CFS, and to collaborate with the Commission in developing common performance measures across the workforce programs administered by DOA, Commerce, DHHS, DPI, and CC System Office. A final report to the Reform Oversight Committee is due by December 15, 2014.

Web-Based Workforce Development Effort: Commerce is directed to convene a group of program administrators to develop a plan for a common Internet-based intake system for the State's workforce development efforts. The plan must be reported to the Reform Oversight Committee by July 1, 2013. In expanding its Internet Web site, Commerce will create hyperlinks that provide users with access to (i) information on all workforce development programs, (ii) the location and operating hours of service providers, (iii) training programs and opportunities, (iv) job matching systems, and (v) unemployment insurance information.

Workforce Initiatives Program Ended: The CC System Office is directed to cease operation of the Workforce Initiatives Program.

Reform Oversight Committee Established: The Joint Legislative Workforce Development System Reform Oversight Committee is created. The Committee consists of 16 members, with eight each appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Reform Oversight Committee will provide an interim report to the 2014 Regular Session of the 2013 General Assembly and terminates upon submitting its final report to the 2015 General Assembly. The Committee's purpose and powers include all of the following:

- (1) Review reports prepared by Commerce, the Commission on Workforce Development, and any other State, local, or non-State entity related to the workforce development system.
- (2) Monitor the integration of workforce development programs from the former Employment Security Commission into Commerce.
- (3) Monitor the implementation of any realignment of the local workforce development areas.
- (4) Monitor and review the development and implementation of the performance measures developed by the Commission on Workforce Development.
- (5) Monitor the implementation of improvements to the common follow-up information management system authorized by G.S. 96-30 through 96-35.
- (6) Monitor and review the programmatic requirements and the memorandum of understanding for the JobLink Career Center system.
- (7) Monitor and review the development plan of the common Web-based intake form for workforce development programs.
- (8) Study any other matter related to the workforce development system that the Committee deems necessary to accomplish its purpose.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

Phyllis Pickett, Joyce Jones, and Luke Gillenwater substantially contributed to this summary.

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